THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir. Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, 5 doses of Vitamin A are given to children below three years. The first dose at 9 months is 1,00,000 IU followed by 4 doses of 2,00,000 IU once every six months. This regime is considered totally safe.

(b) 66,000 mcg. or 2,00,000 IU given every six months is totally safe. The recommendation of 400 mcg (1333 I.U.) is on a daily basis.

Schools for training medical professionals

2977. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up schools at different locations to train medical professionals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the schools will be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government proposes to support the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in setting up of world class Institutes of Public Health in India to impart highest quality of public health education in the country. The exact number of Institutes has not yet been decided. PHFI is in the process of working out the detailed modalities for setting up the institutes, including site selection for building the Institutes. PHFI will become functional this year and the first Indian Institute of Public Health is likely to be commissioned by PHFI in 2008.

AIIMS like institute in Himachal Pradesh

2978. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up an AIIMS like institute for the State of Himachal Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) to cater to the needs of lakhs of people in the State as such institutes have been proposed for various other States;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) if not, the rationale therefore and the guidelines on which States have been chosen for such institutes; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to provide specialized medical care for the residents of Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it is proposed to set up one AIIMS-like institution each in the States of Bihar (Patna), Chhattisgarh (Raipur), Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal), Orissa (Bhubaneshwar), Rajasthan (Jodhpur) and Uttaranchal (Rishikesh). These states were chosen as they are under served in terms of medical infrastructure, high incidence of mortality and morbidity, need for super-speciality services etc. PGIMER, Chandigarh, an institute of national importance is already providing specialised medical care to the people of Himachal Pradesh and therefore, at present, there is no proposal to set up an AIIMS like Institution in Himachal Pradesh.

Adverse effects of cosmetics

†2979. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that comon cosmetics such as talcum powder, perfumes, soap, oil nail polish, lipstick, etc. are injurious to health and even pose a threat of cancer;

(b) whether Government would take any step to warn consumers of harmful effects of cosmetics; and

(c) whether Government would eventually take steps to ban the manufacturing and sale of these synthetic, inorganic cosmetics products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No specific reports have been received in this Ministry that talcum powder, perfumes, soap, oil, nail polish and lipstick are injurious to health and even pose a threat of cancer.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.